



いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

The long way home

雲田はるこ



いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

Haruko Kunita

雲田はるこ



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The Long Way Home

いなかのこい -the Long way home-



HELLO  
THERE...



YOU TWO  
ARE THE  
SAME AGE,  
SO TRY TO  
GET ALONG,  
ALRIGHT?



WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NAME?

OH MY,  
GRANNY,  
THERE  
THEY GO.

WE'RE  
GOING  
TO BE  
NEIGH-  
BORS  
HERE.

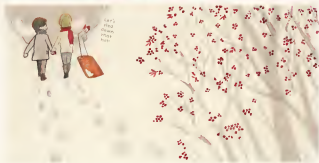
WOW,  
BE NICE,  
GRANNY!













THE LONG WAY HOME



MI-  
KUN?



じ  
わ  
...





THE  
CONFESSION  
FROM THAT  
GIRL THE  
OTHER DAY?

OH—  
THAT.

I  
TURNED  
IT DOWN.



SAY, MI-  
KUN, HOW  
DID THAT  
THING GO?

THAT  
THING.

?



FOR LUNCH  
TODAY, DID  
YOU EAT RICE  
BY YOUR-  
SELF?

UIN.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE YOUR  
PART-TIME  
JOB TODAY?

UIN.

YOU KEEP  
ONLY SAYING  
"UIN."

UIN.



AFTER ALL,  
KNOWING  
YOU'RE  
HURTING  
A PERSON'S  
FEELINGS  
IS...

WHEN THEY  
DO IT AT  
THEIR OWN  
CONVENIENCE.

IT TURNS  
MY HEART  
INTO A MESS  
FOR A LONG  
TIME.

I  
KNOW.

AGAIN

THAT POOR  
GIRL—  
?

YEAH.



MAKES  
ME  
ANGRY.

HAHA.

YOU WERE  
POPULAR IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL,  
WEREN'T YOU?  
YOU HAD AN  
ABACUS.

EVEN AN  
ABACUS WOULDN'T  
MAKE ME  
POPULAR  
NOW—

YOU KNOW,  
IF SOMEONE  
CONFERRED  
TO ME EVEN  
JUST ONCE,  
I WOULDN'T  
CARE ABOUT  
BEING POP-  
ULAR.



























I  
love  
you.



Hm?



I'M  
LONELY.



LET  
IT OUT.





いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

第一話







GIVE  
ME THE  
DETAILS.

HOW DID IT  
HAPPEN?

SIT UP  
STRAIGHT  
AND  
LISTEN,  
THIS IS  
EMBARRASSING.

Kwsk



WHY...

...ARE YOU  
SUDDENLY  
TELLING ME  
THAT?



AND  
SOMEHOW,  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN, SHE  
CONFESSED.

I WAS  
SURPRISED,  
BUT SHE'S  
NOT A BAD  
GIRL.

SO,

I GUESS  
I'M GOING  
TO TRY GOING  
OUT WITH  
HER...

AHA...

SHE'S A  
GIRL FROM  
ANOTHER  
SCHOOL... BUT  
WE BECAME  
ACQUAINTANCES  
THROUGH  
CLUB  
ACTIVITIES.



I'M NOT  
GIVING UP  
YET.

KEEP  
TRYING,  
ME!  
KEEP  
TRYING,  
ME!

NO, BUT  
THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN KEI-  
CHAN LOVES  
HER BACK...

MI-  
KUN?

SHIT—  
AT LAST,  
THE GLUTENESS  
OF KEI-CHAN  
GOING OUT  
WITH A GIRL  
HAS BEEN  
REVEALED...

IDIOT,  
IT WAS  
BOUND TO  
HAPPEN  
EVENTUALLY.













HOW  
ROMANTIC.

はあ

BUT AFTER  
THINKING IT  
OVER I DON'T  
REALLY KNOW...

IF I'M THINKING  
OF THAT PERSON'S  
HAPPINESS, IT MIGHT  
BE BETTER TO AB-  
SOLUTELY NOT  
SAY IT...

BUT AS IT IS,  
WITH US BEING  
FRIENDS, I MIGHT  
NOT BE HAPPY...

I didn't~!

Did you  
just say  
something stupid?

カリン

MI-  
KUN.

WANT TO  
GO HOME?

SOMEHOW  
OR OTHER,  
did you  
solve your  
problem?

KURO-KUN,  
SEE YOU  
LATER~

Y...  
YEAH.

カリン











...IT'S THAT  
RUNNING INTO  
KIYOMI-SAN HAS  
MADE ME NOTICE  
HIM.

ナ  
テ  
ー  
！  
：

MAYBE MY  
DESIRE IS  
STRONG, OR  
MAYBE...

キ  
、  
キ  
、  
キ  
、

SAY, ON THE  
WAY HOME, WILL  
YOU TAKE ME  
SOMEWHERE?

DEFINITELY,  
THAT WOMAN'S  
HERITANCE...

...IS  
CURSED.



KIYOMI-  
SAN, THAT  
FEELS GOOD.

DOES IT?  
I'M GLAD.



HE'S  
GOOD AT  
KISSING...

I FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
GOING TO  
MELT.

EVERY TIME  
I SEE YOU,  
I BECOME  
BOLD.

WHEN YOU  
INVITED ME  
I WAS HAPPY,  
BUT...

IF YOUR  
MOTHER FINDS  
OUT, IT WILL  
BE AWKWARD...

IT'S FINE,  
BECAUSE  
SHE'S AN  
IDiot.

REALLY?

IF YOU'RE  
PATIENT, NEXT  
TIME IT'LL FEEL  
EVEN MORE  
GOOD.

TOUCH  
THIS TOO.

I HAVE  
A FEELING  
IT WILL.

UN.  
BUT THE EARLY  
MORNING IS  
ALREADY  
RETURNING.

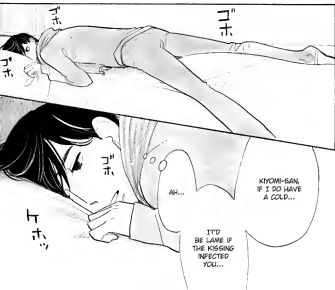
IS THERE  
A HOTEL  
AROUND  
HERE?

CAN WE  
GO TO  
YOUR  
APART-  
MENT?

DIFF-  
IDENTLY  
NOT.











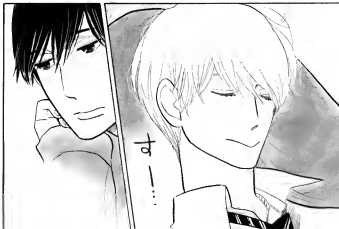


























Huh?



Huh?

MI—



Huh?

第一話/END



# いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

## 第二話





YEAH...



WHERE'S KUBO-KUN?

IT'S STRANGE NOT SEEING YOU TWO TOGETHER.



WE'RE ABOUT TO BE BOGGED DOWN BY ENTRANCE EXAMS.

BUT THE AQUARIUM IS A GOOD PLACE FOR MAKING YOU FEEL CARE-FREE.



MORE, I'M GOING TO LONDON.

OH—FOR SUFFORD UNIVERSITY?

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED WHERE I'M GOING. I'VE JUST FINISHED THE ARRANGEMENTS.

HUH!?



ENTRANCE EXAMS...

KUBO-KUN, ARE YOU TAKING THEM TOO?









THAT'S  
A LIE.

THE TRUTH  
IS I REMEMBER  
IT CLEARLY.

I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
MUCH ABOUT  
THOSE DAYS.

THAT TOO-  
CHILDISH  
NICKNAME...

...WAS  
CERTAINLY  
GIVEN TO ME  
BY KEI-CHAN.

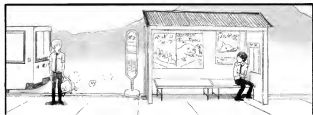


Mr.  
kumi!

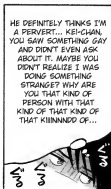
Kei-chan  
still hasn't said  
anything..

..about the  
incident with  
Kiyomi-san.

















SOMETHING  
LIKE TELLING  
KEI-CHAN MY  
FEELINGS...

IT'S  
FINE.

ISN'T THIS  
THE IDEAL  
OUTCOME?

WANTING  
HIM TO  
KNOW...

WANTING  
HIM TO  
GAZE  
AT ME...

WANTING  
TO TOUCH  
HIM...

WANTING  
TO KISS...

WANTING  
TO HOLD  
HANDS...

...wanting  
to do  
all sorts of  
things...

More  
than  
any of  
those  
things,

HUH? IT'S  
MI-KUN.

What I want  
is to not lose  
the way things  
have been up  
until now.























AND WAS  
CHILDREN...

BUILDS  
A FAMILY,

A WHILE  
FROM NOW,  
KEI-CHAN  
MARRIES  
A GIRL,

WOULD YOU  
BE ABLE TO  
SMILE FROM  
YOUR HEART  
AND GIVE HIM  
YOUR  
BLESSINGS?



BUT,  
LET'S SAY  
THAT...

IT'S  
ENOUGH.

I'VE  
MADE MY  
CHOICE,  
SO...

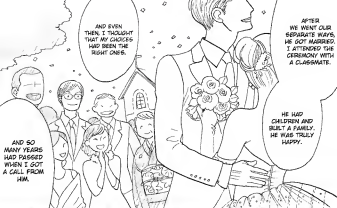


BUT AROUND  
THE AGE OF 20,  
I GAVE UP.

WHEN I WAS  
YOUR AGE I  
WAS ALSO  
ATTACHED TO  
A FRIEND.

I HAD BECOME  
AFRAID OF  
THE FUTURE.





AND EVEN THEN, I THOUGHT THAT MY CHOICES HAD BEEN THE RIGHT ones.

AFTER WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS, HE GOT MARRIED. I ATTENDED THE CEREMONY WITH A CLASSMATE.

HE HAD CHILDREN AND BUILT A FAMILY. HE WAS TRULY HAPPY.

AND SO MANY YEARS HAD PASSED WHEN I GOT A CALL FROM HIM.



"I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN," HE SAID.



TAKING UP WITH HIM AT THAT POINT WOULD HAVE MEANT DESTROYING MANY THINGS.

AND I REFUSED.



IT'S A SAD ENDING.

BECAUSE OF THAT, EVERY DAY SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH REGRET. LOVE BY ITSELF WASN'T ENOUGH.



SAYING  
I WAS  
DOING IT  
FOR HIS  
SAKE WAS  
AN EXCUSE.

I ONLY  
DID IT IN  
ORDER TO  
NOT GET  
MY OWN  
FEELINGS  
HURT.



AND THE  
CAUSE OF  
THE ENTIRE  
MISTAKE,

WAS THAT  
I DECIDED  
WHAT HIS  
FEELINGS  
WERE OF  
MY OWN  
ACCORD.



I DON'T  
KNOW WHETHER  
YOUR FEELINGS  
WILL BE THE  
SAME, BUT...

PROMISE  
ME ONLY  
ONE THING.



MAKE  
SURE YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
THIS THING  
WITH KEI-CHAN  
REALLY IS.



YEAH.

IF ANYTHING  
HAPPENS,  
PLEASE GET  
IN TOUCH.

I'M ALSO  
WORRIED  
ABOUT YOUR  
MOTHER.

WELL,  
THEN,



HMP?

KINDA-  
GAM.

YOU  
RESEMBLE  
ME OF MY  
FATHER

I  
HOPE  
NOT...



YOU CAN STILL  
TALK TO ME  
ANY TIME.

IF YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ANYONE TO  
TALK TO,

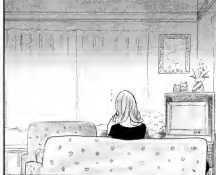


HERE,

HOWEVER,  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE I'VE  
LOST.

I HOPE  
YOU'RE  
ABLE TO  
FIND LOVE  
AGAIN.





Idiot!  
you're  
so mean...



STOP  
DRINKING  
ALREADY.

I'M  
SURPRISED  
YOU'RE STILL  
AWAKE.

NO  
WAY.



HUH...?

YOU CAN  
TELL ME  
ABOUT IT.



DID...

SOME-  
THING BAD  
HAPPEN?









**THE TEAM**



NO.



THAT  
KIND OF  
HATE-  
FUL...!

NO NO NO  
NO NO NO  
NO!

Now

**WU**

PLEASE, DON'T  
MAKE YOUR  
GRANDMOTHER  
SCOLD ME  
AGAIN...











IT'S NOTHING,  
IT'S NOTHING.

IT'S  
FINE.



DID SOMETHING  
HAPPEN WITH  
YOUR MOTHER  
AGAIN?



SHOULD  
WE GO FOR  
A WALK?



MI-KUN,  
I'VE  
GOT YOU  
FIGURED  
OUT.

YEAH,  
THAT'S  
A LIE.



HUH...?

NOW HE'S  
ASKING  
ABOUT IT?

HE'S NOT  
LETTING  
ME OFF  
EASY?



MI-KUN,  
SO...

ARE  
YOU GOING  
OUT WITH  
KYOAMI-SAN?











いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

第三話















I  
WONDER  
WHY...

WE'VE DONE  
THIS KIND OF  
THING BEFORE  
NOW, BUT...

CAREFUL,  
THERE'S  
ICE--

right--

MY WHOLE  
HAND FEELS  
AWKWARD AND  
LIKE IT'S ABOUT  
TO COME OFF...







AFTER  
THIS,  
WHERE  
ARE WE  
GOING?



Falling  
for that  
so easily—  
you're  
an idiot.

NO  
WAY!

NOOO  
OOOO  
OOOO,



SHOULD  
WE GO  
TO A  
HOTEL?

「ヤハ」



IF I  
HADN'T  
DONE  
THAT...

IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
BETTER...

BUT IT'S  
REALLY  
MY FAULT.

GEEZ, HOW  
EMBARR-  
ASSING.



THE  
LOOK  
ON HIS  
FACE...  
THAT'S  
NOT  
GOOD.

















NO MATTER WHAT  
HAPPENS, I'M IN  
SUPPORT OF YOU  
TWO.

IT'S  
JUST  
LIKE HIM,  
RIGHT?  
♪

what  
does  
that  
mean?

Ah!  
How  
unfair.



GOOD  
LUCK.

じゃ  
わ

DON'T  
CRY~

Bya  
na  
na!

It's my  
still-short  
life's...

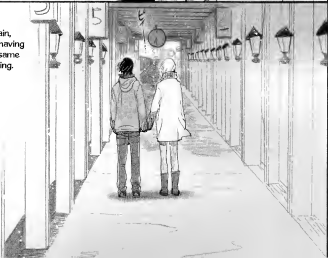
...second  
long  
farewell.



The first  
was Mi-kun's  
father.



Again,  
we're having  
that same  
feeling.





NOTE: ANMITSU IS A DESSERT, MADE OF JELLY WITH FRUIT, SWEET BEAN PASTE, AND SORUP







I STILL  
HAVEN'T  
PUT MY  
FEELINGS  
IN ORDER,  
IN ORDER  
TO APOLO-  
GIZE.



AND YOU  
HAVEN'T  
APOLO-  
GIZED?

YOU  
SAID  
IT ON  
PUR-  
POSE.



I CAN'T  
TELL YOU  
EVERY-  
THING,  
BUT...

I SAID  
SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE  
TO HIM,

ON  
PURPOSE,  
IN AN OUT-  
BURST OF  
ANGER.



I WANT TO  
MAKE UP WITH  
HIM AS SOON  
AS I CAN...

WHY  
...

DID YOU DO  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?  
HE-KUN IS  
ANGRY, YOU  
KNOW.



AT A TIME  
LIKE THIS, IF  
WA-KUN WERE  
HERE...

HE WOULD  
HAVE FIXED  
EVERYTHING  
EASILY...

I'M...  
COMPLETELY  
USELESS,

WHEN IT  
COMES TO  
CHILDREN.









IS THAT SO?



I'M  
REALIZING  
WHY THAT  
KID IS SO  
ATTACHED  
TO YOU.

HE HAS  
AN IN-  
CREDIBLE  
FATHER  
COMPLEX.



I'M  
GOING TO  
GO SEDUCE  
HIM.

3.  
3.  
3.



KIYOMI  
DOESN'T  
BELONG TO  
THAT KID,  
AFTER  
ALL~

IN FACT,  
I'M GETTING  
FIRED UP. ♥

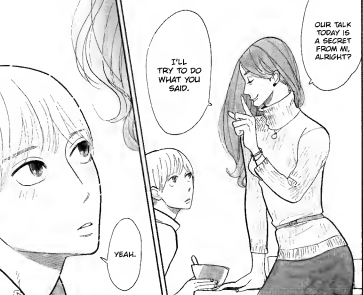


HERE,  
EAT YOUR  
HALF.

WHO?

KIYOMI-SAN.  
TODAY WE'RE  
GOING ON  
A DATE. ♥

IT'S  
SHEMUSASHI.  
↓



...PLEASE  
TRY TO HELP  
HIM GET ALONG  
WITH YOU.



THIS KID  
IS CLUMSY  
AT MAKING  
FRIENDS,  
SO...

YEAH.

ONEE-SAN  
CAME FROM  
THE CITY,  
HUH...?



so I tried  
to get along  
with Mi-kun.

Easily  
amusing and  
pretty...

I wanted  
to please  
Miyako-san,



It was  
already late  
at night when  
I was notified  
about her  
accident.



Of course, I  
realized it wasn't  
going to happen  
a long time ago.  
Without telling  
anyone about  
them, I buried  
my feelings in  
my heart.





...was  
unbelievable.

There were  
many accidents  
on the mountain  
roads.

In the  
snowstorm  
we had that  
day, why two  
people had gone  
to that kind of  
place...



Miyako-san...

...was together  
with Kiyomi-san.



And so  
Mi-kun lost  
everything.  
He had nothing  
to return to.



TODAY YOU'LL  
STAY OVER AT  
OUR HOUSE.  
ALRIGHT?

MI-  
KUN.

YOUR GRAND-  
MOTHER SAID  
SHE'S COMING  
FIRST THING IN  
THE MORNING.

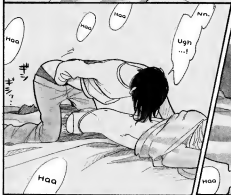








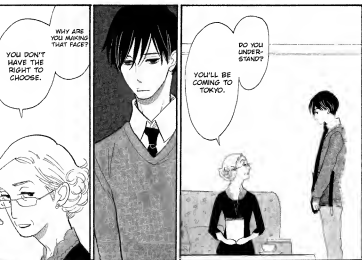


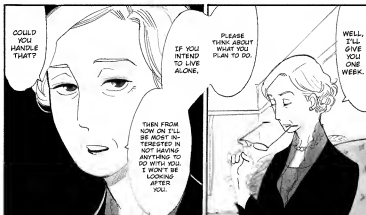
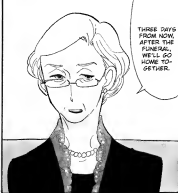












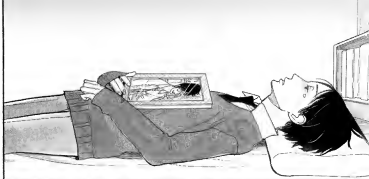


DON'T  
MAKE THAT  
FACE...



I  
DON'T LIKE  
BEING ALONE  
EITHER.

IT'S JUST  
THE TWO OF  
US NOW.







WHAT.

IT'S...



MAYBE  
BEING  
DECIDED  
THAT I'M  
GOING TO  
TOKYO.



STILL, I  
CAN'T STAY IN  
THIS HOUSE  
ALONE...

THOUGH...  
SHE'S BEEN  
SAYING THAT  
SINCE A LONG  
TIME AGO.

MY  
GRAND-  
MOTHER  
DOESN'T  
WANT TO BE  
ALONE.



WHY AREN'T  
YOU SAYING  
YOU HATE IT?



MI-KUN,  
YOU'RE  
OKAY WITH  
THAT?

AND I WAS  
GLADDENLY  
TOLD I'M  
A BURDEN,  
SO...

I GUESS  
IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED...











I GUESS  
THIS IS  
ALREADY  
THE END.

A KISS  
WOULD BE  
EASY, AND  
YET...

WHY  
CAN'T I  
DO IT?

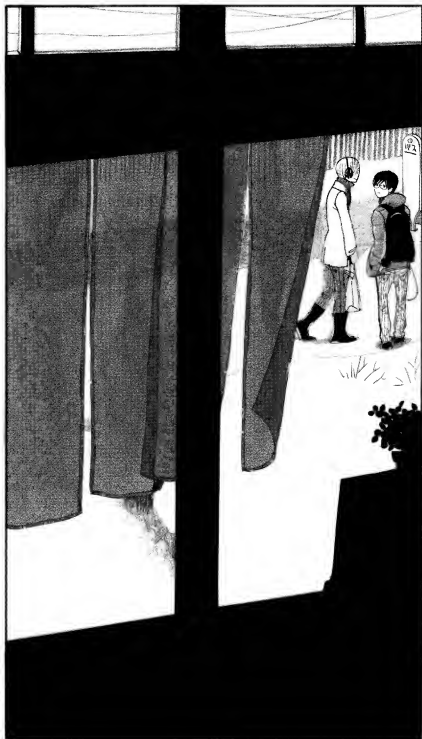
TAKE  
CARE.





いとしの猫っ毛 小樽篇

最終話











I'M GOING  
TO RUIN AN  
ERRAND.

Noo,  
stop...!

OH.

NICE  
RETORT.

Very  
good.

IT'S  
NOT THAT  
EITHER!

YOU  
LIKE  
THIS?

Hm?

I'm living in  
Tokyo. My  
grandmother  
owns this  
house and  
entrusted its  
management  
to me.

It's already  
been four  
years since  
I came here.  
I'm 21 years  
old now.

catnip  
manor

IT'S BEEN  
SIX MONTHS  
SINCE WE LAST  
SAW EACH  
OTHER.

LIFE WITH-  
OUT KEI-CHAN  
HAS BECOME  
COMPLETELY  
ORDINARY.

12:01 PM  
You 既読 + 12:07 PM  
Kei-chan  
Re: Has it snowed there?  
02/23 20:17  
It was. Mi-kun, I've decided  
to take a job. At a company  
in Otaru. 13  
I'll call you later about the  
chestnuts.  
(There's no answer yet,  
sorry.)  
--- END ---

110  
+







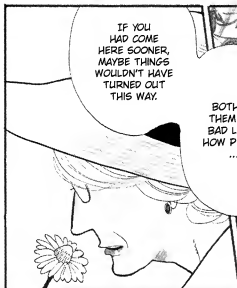
BUT DON'T  
CHOOSE  
SOMEONE  
LIKE YOUR  
MOTHER.



SINCE  
SCHOOL IS  
ENDING, YOU  
SHOULD TRY  
TO FIND ONE  
SOON.

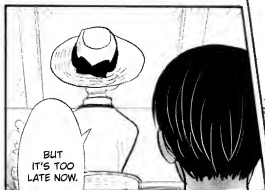


AFTER  
THAT, YOU  
SHOULD  
FIND A  
WIFE.



IF YOU  
HAD COME  
HERE SOONER,  
MAYBE THINGS  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
TURNED OUT  
THIS WAY.

BOTH OF  
THEM HAD  
BAD LUCK.  
HOW PITIFUL  
...



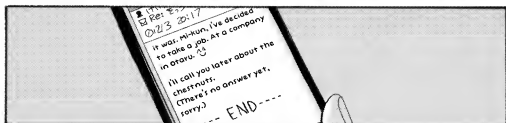
BUT  
IT'S TOO  
LATE NOW.



THAT KIND  
OF PERSON  
DOESN'T  
SUIT US.

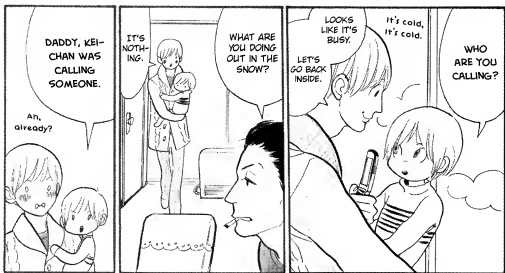


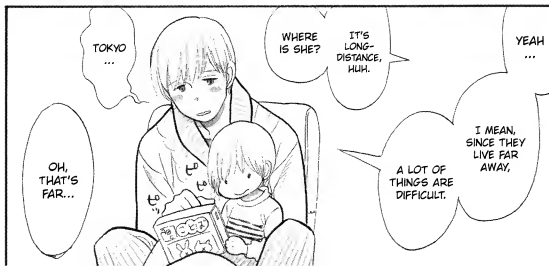


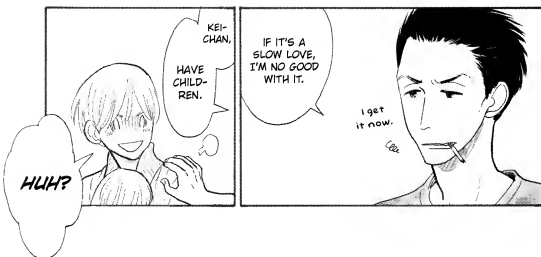
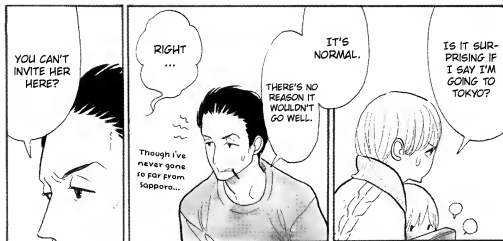












I HAVE  
EXPERIENCE,  
SO I KNOW  
IT'S THE  
TRUTH.

ふふ...  
☆

IF YOU'VE  
FALLEN IN  
LOVE WITH  
THIS PERSON  
FROM THE  
BOTTOM OF  
YOUR HEART,  
THEN IT'LL  
HAPPEN  
EITHER  
WAY.

THE  
ADVANTAGE  
OF HAVING  
A CUTE KID  
IS THAT IT  
HAS A  
PERSUASIVE  
POWER, YOU  
KNOW?

ふふ...

I WANTED  
TO SETTLE  
DOWN  
QUICKLY.

SINCE IT  
WAS IMPOSSIBLE  
WITH  
SOMEONE  
OTHER  
THAN  
NATSUMI,

WHEN YOUR  
YOUTH PASSES  
BY, WILL IT  
HAVE  
BEEN IDLE NOISE?

YICCHI  
HAS FALLEN  
ASLEEP.

BUT,

ふふ...

ONII-SAN,  
THAT'S  
AMAZING.

AH!

PERSUASIVE  
POWER,  
HUH...

HOLD ON  
A MINUTE.

I'LL LAY  
OUT THE  
FUTONS.

Hey,  
Natsumi,  
get up.

Gah.

WE CAN'T  
GET MARRIED  
EITHER.

WHAT  
WOULD WE  
SAY TO OUR  
PARENTS?

I'D HAVE  
TO LEAVE  
OTARU.

WE CAN'T  
HAVE  
CHILDREN.

WE'D HAVE TO  
GIVE UP MANY  
THINGS.



A man with short hair, wearing a flight suit, is shown from the chest up, holding a baby. He has a thoughtful expression. A thought bubble leads from him to a speech bubble.

WHAT CAN  
SOMEONE LIKE  
ME DO FOR MI-KUN  
TO JUSTIFY GOING  
TO THAT EXTENT?



A man in a flight suit is embracing another man in a crowd. The man in the flight suit is holding a bottle. The background shows other people and a brick wall.

HANABISHI-  
KUN, YOU'RE  
DRINKING  
TOO MUCH.



A close-up of two men. The man on the left is looking at the man on the right, who has a sad expression. A thought bubble is above the man on the right.

DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?







YOU FIND  
SOMEONE  
LIKE ME  
CONVENIENT  
...?



KIYOMI-SAN,  
ARE YOU DOING  
ALRIGHT?



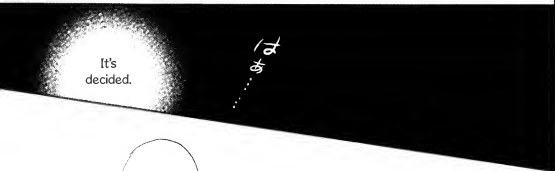
I WANT  
TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN  
...













KEI-CHAN,  
I'M SORRY I'VE  
MADE YOUR LIFE  
STRANGE.

I'M SORRY  
I'VE MADE YOU  
THINK SO MUCH  
ABOUT DIFFICULT  
THINGS.



LIKE  
THIS, IT'S  
LIKE YOU'RE  
STILL ALIVE.

Promise me  
only one thing.

Make sure  
you know what this  
thing with Kei-chan  
really is.

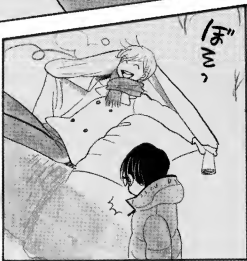
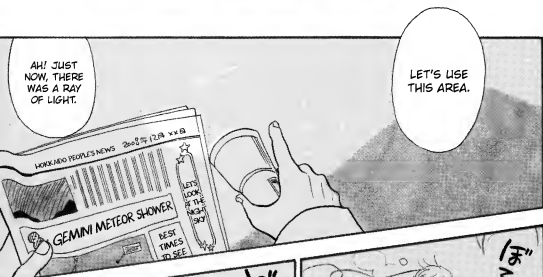


THIS  
WAS  
FUN.

THANK  
YOU.











LET'S  
STOP IT.

SINCE  
WE'RE NOT  
LIKE THAT.



IT'S LIKE  
WE'RE  
LOVERS.











MEANING,  
IT'S UP  
TO ME.



I DON'T  
WANT TO LEAVE  
EVERYONE HERE,  
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE  
I COULD DO WHAT  
I WANTED.

THE PLACE  
I'VE TAKEN  
A JOB HAS  
A BRANCH  
OFFICE IN  
TOKYO.

IF I GAINED  
SOME EXPER-  
IENCE AND TOLD  
THEM I WANTED  
TO, I COULD  
GO.



AFTER  
THIS...  
WAIT TWO  
YEARS.

I WANT TO  
PERSUADE MY  
PARENTS, BUILD  
UP A SAVINGS,  
AND GET USED  
TO MY JOB.

I COULDN'T  
EASILY COME  
TO A DECISION.  
FOR TELLING  
YOU THIS SO  
LATE,

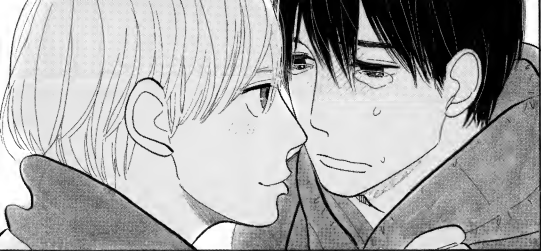
I'M  
SORRY.



AND THEN,  
I'LL GO TO  
MI-KUN.





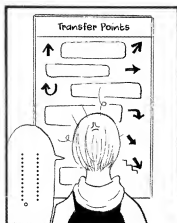


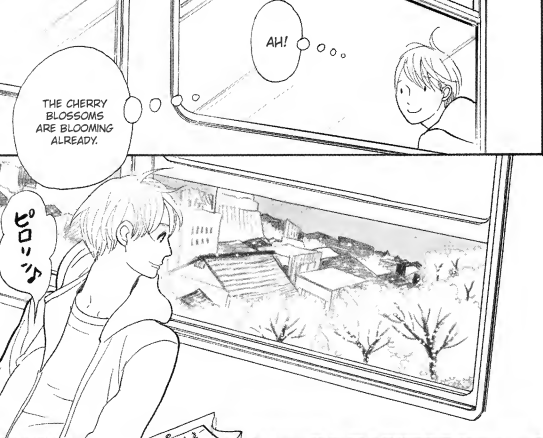
ぽん

Mi-  
kun!  
♥

And so,  
in the blink  
of an eye,  
two years  
passed by.

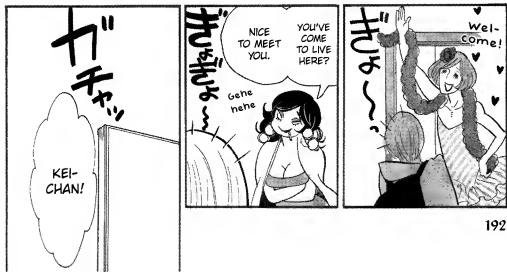


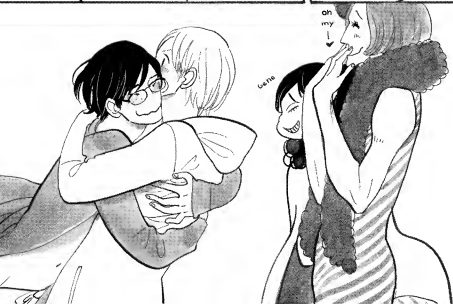




Starting today, I'm going to live in my lover's apartment in Tokyo.







but I was  
embarrassed.  
Let's keep it a  
secret from  
Mi-kun.

This time,  
I really  
wanted to  
kiss him,

